

**FFY 2019
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DIESEL
EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT (DERA)
GRANT PROGRAM**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

October 1, 2019

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY**

INTRODUCTION

This Request for Proposals (RFP) outlines the process of applying for funding to implement diesel emissions reduction projects in South Carolina. This package contains information on the background of the program, as well as information about the application procedures and a timeline of the process in awarding diesel emissions reduction grants. Selection criteria and project requirements are also included in this package.

BACKGROUND

The Energy Policy Act (EPAct) of 2005 (H.R. 6) incorporates plans to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions. Section 793 of the EPAct authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support grant and loan programs administered by the states to achieve reductions in diesel emissions. This program is called the State Clean Diesel Grant Program or the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant program and was reauthorized on January 4, 2011.

Reducing diesel emissions is currently one of the most important air quality challenges in South Carolina. Although more stringent emission standards are taking effect for new heavy-duty on-road and nonroad engines, the diesel engines currently in use will continue to emit large amounts of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and air toxics for years to come. These pollutants affect many areas in our state and our ability to comply with National Ambient Air Quality Standards, especially with ozone and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}), but most importantly they contribute to public health problems.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department or DHEC) invites universities, private organizations, businesses, and any county, city, or other local government in South Carolina to submit applications for the South Carolina DERA Grant Program. The total funding available for this grant program is up to **\$267,000**. Examples of eligible projects may be found at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-02/documents/clean-diesel-funding-assistance-program-fy2019.pdf>.

Previous projects funded through the SC DERA program may be reviewed at https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/DERAProjects_082019.pdf

Entities should submit applications by **5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2019**, for primary consideration. Applications received after this date will be considered as funding is available. Please contact Sam Christmus at (803) 898-0717 or christsw@dhec.sc.gov if you need assistance.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATING CRITERIA

These requirements must be met by all applicants:

- Funds are to be used only for projects that reduce diesel emissions through EPA verified or California Air Resources Board (CARB) verified technology.
- Replacement projects must conform to EPA's DERA Project Eligibility and Cost-Share Overview <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-02/documents/clean-diesel-funding-assistance-program-fy2019.pdf>.
- On-road replacement projects must be 1996 through 2006 model year engines.
- Marine and locomotive projects must exceed the Federal mandatory repower requirements outlined in the Federal requirement, "Control of Emissions of Air Pollution from Locomotives and Marine Compression-Ignition Engines Less than 30 liters per Cylinder," which can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2008/06/30/R8-7999/control-of-emissions-of-air-pollution-from-locomotive-engines-and-marine-compression-ignition>.
- Recipients may not seek reimbursement for funds expended prior to grant award date.
- Projects are to be completed within the time indicated in the grant contract. Recipients will be reimbursed for a qualifying purchase after verification by the Department.
- Quarterly reports must be submitted as outlined in the grant contract.
- Applicants must provide a detailed description of the proposed project, as well as the total amount of funds requested. Also, any matching funds, whether from an outside source or in-kind funds, must be included if applicable.
- We are expecting to fund applicants who can leverage approximately 70% cost share or better. Any matching funds, whether from an outside source or in-kind funds, must be included in the budget. All cost share funds must be from a nonfederal source.
- The application may not exceed ten pages in length, not including any letters of support.
- Applications submitted prior to **5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2019**, will be considered first for funding. Any funds remaining after **December 13, 2019** will be allocated as available for qualifying projects.

REVIEW AND AWARD PROCESS:

Awards will be made on a competitive basis. A review committee consisting of Department staff will review proposals. The committee will assign points to each proposal based on the criteria below. Proposals will then be ranked, and funding recommendations made according to ranking.

EVALUATING CRITERIA:

1. Level of matching funds provided for the project. (Point Value: 0-15)

2. Expected benefits from a proposed project, including emission reductions. (Point Value: 0-15)
3. The cost-effectiveness (reducing the most emissions for the least amount of money) of the project. (Point Value: 0-15)
4. The location of the planned project. Priority will be given to projects in areas where a disproportionate level of environmental impact from industry or other sources (including mobile sources) or where criteria pollutants are above or near ambient air standards. (Point Value: 0-15)
5. The degree of sustainability and the permanence of a project. (Point Value: 0-10)
6. The level of innovation and strategy in the planned project. (Point Value: 0-10)
7. The ability to initiate and complete the project within the timelines of the grant contract. (Point Value: 0-20)

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Eligible projects might include equipment replacement, engine repower, exhaust retrofit, or other diesel emission reduction projects*. Information concerning EPA verified or California Air Resource Board (CARB) verified emission reduction technologies can be found at <http://www3.epa.gov/otaq/diesel/verification/verif-list.htm>.

*NOTE: Recipients cannot fund the cost of emissions reductions mandated under Federal, State or Local law.

APPLICATION FORMAT

1. Application Cover Sheet.
2. Requested detailed budget of proposed funding, including any matching and in-kind funds. The format of the budget should be simple and easy to interpret. Please have two primary columns illustrating Grant Share Requested in the first column and Non-Grant Share Provided in the second column.
3. Project description, including the technology to be implemented. How will this project meet the overall goal of reducing diesel emissions and by what means?
4. Include a description of how progress will be tracked and measured.
5. Results and effects that will occur from the project related to the programmatic goal of reducing diesel emissions. These benefits may be environmental, behavioral, or health-related. The Diesel Emissions Quantifier Tool can be used to calculate emission reductions. It can be found at <https://cfpub.epa.gov/quantifier/index.cfm?action=main.home>.
6. How the proposal addresses each of the evaluating criteria.
7. A schedule for length of the project, with the length of time to complete each task or phase.
8. Letter of support/commitment from matching partners or in-kind funds.
9. Please include a biographical description of the applicants. This description should focus on the applicant's ability to provide a sufficient disclosure of the applicant's fiscal wellbeing.

SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposals may be submitted electronically, mailed or hand delivered.• One electronic copy or three hard copies (two-sided preferred) must be received by the bureau's Air Initiatives and Mobile Sources Section no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2019, for primary consideration.• Postmark dates will not be taken into consideration.• Proposals received after the deadline will be considered as funding is available.• All application and project requirements must be met. Incomplete proposals will not be considered for primary evaluation. Applicants may resubmit proposals for consideration as funding is available.
Option #1 - Electronic submittals should be e-mailed to christsw@dhec.sc.gov .
Option #2 - Hard copies should be mailed or hand delivered to : Sam Christmus SCDHEC - BAQ Air Initiatives and Mobile Sources Section 2600 Bull St. Columbia, SC29201
Contact: Sam Christmus at (803) 898-0717 or christsw@dhec.sc.gov

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Month/Year	Task
December 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.	Submittal deadline for primary consideration.
December 14, 2019 and after.	Acceptance of applications subject to funding availability.
December 20, 2019	Selection of projects by review committee.
January 17, 2020	Announcement of awards.

January 31, 2020	Priority Contracts Completed.
April 15, 2020, July 15, 2020, October 15, 2020, January 15, 2021, April 15, 2021, July 15, 2021, October 15, 2021.	Quarterly report due from sub-grantees.
September 30, 2021	Project Completed.
October 30, 2021	Final project report submitted to DHEC.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

- If your project is partially funded, you will be required to submit a revised application.
- If your project is selected for funding, the following applies:
 - You must comply with all applicable provisions of Federal Regulations in 40 CFR Part 30, 40 CFR Part 31, 40 CFR Part 33, Subpart C, 40 CFR Sections 33.502 and 33.503 and the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.
 - You will need to provide a Federal Tax Identification Number and DUNS number. The DUNS number may be obtained from Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (D&B) by telephone (currently (866) 705-5711) or the Internet (currently at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
 - Only work completed during the contract period may be reimbursed.
 - Reimbursement is by invoice only.
 - Ten percent of the total allowable funding for the contract will be held by the Department until the complete final report is received. The final report is due thirty (30) days after the end of the contract period.
 - Invoices may require up to 45 days for payment.
 - Final invoice must be received prior to 30 days after the end of the contract period.
- Any funds left in the program after the completion of these requirements, including the ten percent withheld if no final report is received, will be used at the discretion of the Department of Health and Environmental Control to fund additional diesel emissions reduction projects.

Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Application Cover Sheet

Project Title: _____

Project Manager: _____

Organization/Business Name: _____

☐ Government ☐ Non-profit ☐ University/College ☐ For-profit ☐ Other

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

Email: _____

Alternate Contact Person: _____

Alternative Contact Telephone: _____ Alternative Contact Email: _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Amount of Matching Funds: *Capital* \$ _____ *In-kind* \$ _____

Project Summary: _____

_____	Date: _____
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Signature of Authorized Representative (Signature certifies authority to represent this organization in this application. Unsigned applications will not be accepted.)

Please attach this page to the front of your proposal. Thank you.